INSECT CONDITIONS ON THE CACHE NATIONAL FOREST

The following is an account of the most important forest insect problems encountered on the Cache National Forest this year. Part of this information was compiled from aerial survey findings and part was the result of limited ground examinations to supplement the aerial findings. No special evaluation surveys were performed this year.

The most important forest insect problem on the Forest this year was the Douglas-fir beetle. Less serious but still important problems were the mountain pine beetle, and the common spruce beetle. A more detailed account of these insects follows;

Douglas-fir beetle, Dendroctonus pseudotsugae Hopk.

Losses in Douglas-fir caused by the Douglas-fir beetle, remained low throughout most of the Forest during 1965. Aerial observers mapped many patches of newly faded Douglas-fir, however, the trend appears to be static or slightly decreasing in most areas.

Generally, the largest concentrations of faded Douglas-fir trees occur near the north end of the forest. A large patch of approximately 50-60 trees was observed in Spawn Creek south of the Forestry School in Logan Canyon. Douglas-fir beetle activity appears to be slowly increasing near the Beaver Ski area. Infested trees sampled near Minnetonka Cave contained epidemic numbers of Douglas-fir beetle broods. At the time of the examination, approximately 20 trees were infested. Buildup ratio was one new attack for each tree killed last year. Beetles had not flown from faded trees, consequently, the number of new attacks following beetle flight is unknown. Another small patch of Douglas-fir beetle attacks was mapped on the ridge south west of the Cave area, however, this was not evaluated.

Infestations of Douglas-fir beetle on the Cache National Forest are expected to remain at about the same level through next year.

Common spruce beetle, Dendroctonus obesus (Mann.) (=engelmanni)

A few faded engelmann spruce trees, suspected to be infested with the common spruce beetle, were observed in Green Basin west of Paris, Idaho. A very small concentrated accumulation of spruce timber was knocked over by an avalanche last winter southwest of Paris Peak. The spruce beetle has, at times, built up to epidemic numbers in down trees and spread from them into surrounding spruce stands. Entomologists will check these spruce areas as soon as possible next spring.

Mountain pine beetle, Dendroctonus ponderosae Hopk. (D. monticolae)

Mountain pine beetle infestations are at a low level on the Forest this year following timely and thorough control efforts. Most of the current infestations are scattered and relatively small in extent. The largest single infestation on the Forest occurs between the heads of Pole and New Canyons, west of Randolph. In this area there are four distinct groups, each containing an estimated 50 to 75 faded trees. Fading ratio, as estimated from the air, was 1:1. Elsewhere on the Forest, particularly in the northern portion, the following active infestations were found.

Area	No. of Infested Trees
Head Saddle Creek	100
Head Temple Fork	50
Jebo Creek	50
Fish Haven Creek	50
Paris Canyon	10
Copenhagen Canyon	20
Immigration Canyon	30
North Canyon	10
Stauffer Creek	50-75
Beaver Creek	10
Co-op Creek	100
Mill Hollow	30-40
East of Sherman Peak	25-30
Trail Creek	100
Mill and Cow Forks	50-60

Although no ground evaluations were made in these areas, fading ratio, as determined from the air, favored the old red tops. A similar downward trend in practically all of these areas can be expected in 1966.

11-12-66
Date

Submitted By:

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